

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Possible Atomic Research
Center Near Moscow

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The possible atomic research installation [redacted] was located in a town from which almost all of the population had been evacuated. The workers were housed in both old houses belonging to former residents, as well as in new houses built especially for them near the laboratories. Some workers were also billeted in a luxury hotel near the laboratories. As a rule, new houses were built for families of workers, while single employees stayed at the hotel. The town apparently had good hotels, libraries and expensive shops. Although all Soviet citizens are rationed, the workers at this installation were not on rations and were not limited as to any purchases they wanted to make.

[redacted] All workers were well-paid, receiving an average of 2,000 rubles per month, a very high wage for the USSR. The leading scientists at the installation received as much as 10,000 to 15,000 rubles per month. Apparently, all the workers were well-satisfied, both with their surroundings and with their work.

2. Workers were always transported to and from the installation by special plane. The trip from Moscow took one hour. As mentioned above, nearly the entire population of the town was evacuated. The persons connected with the installation in any capacity were not permitted to speak to or to have contact with the few former residents of the town who remained. The workers were not allowed ever to leave town except for their vacations which had to be taken at specially designated resorts to which they were flown by special plane. No direct correspondence with the town was allowed, and all mail had to be addressed to a post office box in Moscow. No details were known concerning physical security restrictions at the laboratories themselves. It was generally known, however that the work was of a highly secret nature.

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3. As of July 1947, actual laboratory research work at the installation was just starting. All of the laboratories were newly constructed. The name of the town in which the installation was located was never mentioned. Its precise location, other than the fact that it was one hour's flight from Moscow, was never revealed.
4. The town was located in, or on the immediate outskirts of, a woods. There was also a river in which the workers frequently bathed. Apparently, too, there was a great deal of sunshine.
[REDACTED]
5. It was a well-known fact that the research being conducted at the installation was of a highly secret type. While normal security regulations are enforced at all installations engaged in any phase of war or critical activity, there are always loopholes in these regulations, and there is always laxity in enforcing them except in the case of an atomic installation.
[REDACTED] surrounded on three sides by a high fence surmounted by barbed wire. Guards were also stationed at the entrance gates to the plant. However, the fourth side of the area was adjacent to a woods and was not fenced in at all, nor was it guarded or patrolled. The only type of installation at which one would not find such disregard for physical security would be an atomic installation. [REDACTED] since an installation where security restrictions were as rigid as at the one in question must, of necessity, be concerned with atomic research. Also the excellent working conditions and high pay were additional reasons for believing that the installation was an atomic one. Also, Soviet scientists of the highest caliber and reputation were assigned to the installation.
[REDACTED]
6. At the same time that my friend was assigned to the installation, three or four more of my graduating class, those receiving the highest grades, were also assigned there. All of these specialized in strength-of-material tests of metals. This type of research is, of course, necessary in atomic research.
7. [REDACTED]
8. All workers contracted for a two-year tour of duty at the laboratories [REDACTED] never heard any mention of German scientists or workers being employed at the installation [REDACTED]
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